



## **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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### **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Earl Tilly, found 55 elected officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Monday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Tilly said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent a warning letter asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 7, 2004 and letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 28, 2004.

Government officials from Southwest Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

**Steven Sanders**, City Council Member for the City of Washougal, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$300. If the penalty is not paid within 30 days of the order the Commission will refer the case to the Attorney General's Office for collection.

**Robert Taylor**, School Director for the La Center school District #101, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

**Jesse Garrison**, Fire Commissioner for the Lewis Fire Protection District, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.